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*FOR MORE INFORMATION*

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## **Mass Casualty Exercise to test Fort Polk and area emergency service skills**

FORT POLK, La. – Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital will join area hospitals, emergency services and post agencies to test their Emergency Management Plan during a Mass Casualty Exercise, Wednesday, May 16, here.

Joining BJACH for the exercise are Leesville's Byrd Regional Hospital, Beauregard Memorial Hospital in DeRidder and Acadian Ambulance, Louisiana Hospitals Emergency Preparedness and Response Regions 5 and 6, and representatives from the amateur radio community.

The exercise is designed to help improve communication and coordination with the network of hospitals and Emergency Management Service on and off the installation. The exercise will serve to ensure that BJACH is operating in accordance with the Joint Commission environment of care standards, will test the Emergency Operations Center, and hone staff skills.

Exchange Road, located between Hwy 467 and Georgia Avenue, will be closed to regular traffic from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., drivers are asked to use alternate routes during this time.

Due to the exercise, services and operating hours will be scaled back. All clinics and the lab will close at noon. Outpatient Pharmacy services will be available during the exercise; however, only two windows will be open, extending waiting times. BJACH's Emergency Room is open 24-hours a day, seven days a week for beneficiaries needing emergency care.

Once the exercise begins, access to the hospital will be limited to the second floor entrance. Guards will be posted and ID cards checked.

- Reporters will be able to be at the scene for stills and b-roll. As casualties are evacuated to BJACH, we will move to the emergency room for coverage.
- Following the completion of the exercise Col. William Statz, BJACH commander, Cpt. Dennis O'Reilly, Chief, Plans, Training, Mobilization, and Security BJACH and several participants will be available for interview.